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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of )  
Hirofuma Fujimaru et al. ) Group Art Unit:  
Application No.: 10/581,343 ) Examiner:  
Filing Date: June 2, 2006 ) Confirmation No.:  
Title: PARTICULATE WATER RETAINING )  
MATERIAL FOR CULTIVATING )  
PLANT HAVING WATER )  
ABSORBENT RESIN AS MAIN )  
COMPONENT )

SECOND  
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Enclosed is a SECOND Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) and accompanying form PTO-1449 for the above-identified patent application.

- ☒ No additional fee for submission of an IDS is required.
- ☐ The fee of 180 as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is also enclosed.
- ☐ A statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) is also enclosed.
- ☐ A statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e), and the fee of 180 as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) are also enclosed.
- ☐ Charge \_\_\_\_\_ to Deposit Account No. 02-4800 for the fee due.
- ☐ A check in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed for the fee due.
- ☐ Charge \_\_\_\_\_ to credit card for the fee due. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
- ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17 and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-4800. This paper is submitted in duplicate.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL AND ROONEY PC

Date September 20, 2006

By:

William C. Rowland  
Registration No. 30888

P.O. Box 1404  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1404  
703 836 6620

**Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC**  
Attorneys & Government Relations Professionals

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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

### In re Patent Application of

Hiroshima Fujimaru et al.

Application No.: 10/581,3

Filed: June 2, 2006

For: PARTICULATE WATER RETAINING  
MATERIAL FOR CULTIVATING PLANT  
HAVING WATER ABSORBENT RESIN  
AS MAIN COMPONENT

**Group Art Unit:**

Examiner:

Confirmation No.:



## SECOND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the accompanying information is being submitted in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, a copy of each of the documents cited is enclosed. However, copies of the listed U.S. patents are not enclosed since it is no longer required.

The documents are being submitted within three (3) months of the filing or entry of the national stage of this application or before the first Office Action on the merits, whichever is later. Since these documents are being filed within the time period set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), no fee or statement is required.

Several of the documents are not in English. The following remarks are offered with respect to the non-English documents.

JP 58-042602A is in Japanese. An English-language Abstract is provided. This document is mentioned in the specification.

JP 63-068026A is in Japanese. A partial translation (title and first claim) is provided.  
This document is mentioned in the specification.

JP 64-051028A is in Japanese. An English-language Abstract is provided. This document is mentioned in the specification.

JP 62-273283A is in Japanese. An English-language Abstract is provided. This document is mentioned in the specification.

JP 2000-139208A is in Japanese. An English-language Abstract is provided and corresponding U. S. Patent No. 6,615,539 is also cited. This document is mentioned in the specification.

JP 06-000370A is in Japanese. An English-language Abstract is provided. This document is mentioned in the specification.

To assist the Examiner, the documents are listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that an Examiner initialed copy of this form be returned to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

Date: September 20, 2006

By:



William C. Rowland  
Registration No. 30888

P.O. Box 1404  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1404  
703 836 6620

**SECOND  
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 2

Application Number	10/581,343
Filing Date	June 2, 2006
First Named Inventor	Hirofuma Fujimaru et al.
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket No.	1011350-000373

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Document Number	Kind Code (if known)	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Issue/Publication Date (MM-DD-YYYY)
/S.S./	6,615,539	B1	OBONAI et al.	09-09-2003
	6,286,254	B1	OBONAI et al.	09-11-2001
	4,093,776		AOKI et al.	06-06-1978
	4,367,323		KITAMURA et al.	01-04-1983
	4,446,261		YAMASAKI et al.	05-01-1984
	4,683,274		NAKAMURA et al.	07-28-1987
	5,244,735		KIMURA et al.	09-14-1993
	4,625,001		TSUBAKIMOTO et al.	11-25-1986
	4,873,299		NOWAKOWSKY et al.	10-10-1989
	4,286,082		TSUBAKIMOTO et al.	08-25-1981
	4,973,632		NAGASUNA et al.	11-27-1990
	4,985,518		ALEXANDER et al.	01-15-1991
	5,124,416		HARUNA et al.	06-23-1992
	5,250,640		IRIE et al.	10-05-1993
	5,264,495		IRIE et al.	11-23-1993
	5,145,906		CHAMBERS et al.	09-08-1992
	5,380,808		SUMIYA et al.	01-10-1995
	6,228,930	B1	DAIROKU et al.	05-08-2001
	6,071,976		DAIROKU et al.	06-06-2000
	6,254,990	B1	ISHIZAKI et al.	07-03-2001
	5,382,610		HARADA et al.	01-17-1995
/S.S./	5,051,259		OLSEN et al.	09-24-1991

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Document Number	Kind Code (if known)	Country	Date of Publication (MM-DD-YYYY)	STATUS						
					Translation	Partial Translation	Eng. Lang. Summary	Search Report	IPER	Abstract	Cited in Spec.
/S.S./	58-042602	A	JP	03-12-1983						X	X
	63-068026	A	JP	03-26-1988		X					X
	64-051028	A	JP	02-27-1989						X	X
	62-273283	A	JP	11-27-1987						X	X
	2000-139208	A	JP (Corr. to USP 6,615,539)	05-23-2000						X	X
	0 811 636	B1	EP	08-22-2001							X
	0 955 086	B1	EP	09-03-2003							X
	0 922 717	B1	EP	01-26-2005							X
/S.S./	06-000370	A	JP	01-11-1994						X	X
Examiner Signature	/Satya Sastri/			Date Considered	03/05/2009						

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. § 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.

**SECOND  
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 2 of 2

Application Number	10/581,343
Filing Date	June 2, 2006
First Named Inventor	Hirokuma Fujimaru et al.
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket No.	1011350-000373



**NON-PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.
/S.S./	KAWASHIMA, KAZUO et al., "Influences on the early growth of vegetables by a super absorbent with cross-linked forms of polyacrylate", 1984, pp 7-8, 31(1), Sakyu-Kenkyu, JP (English translation attached)
/S.S./	TAKAKURA, TADASHI, "Growth of Plants and Environment", Plant Nutrition Edition, 2003, pp 162-163, 1, Noubunkyo, JP (English translation attached)

Examiner Signature	/Satya Sastry/	Date Considered	03/05/2009
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. § 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.